
notes

A Publication for the Residents of Phoenix

April 2003

Tight budget results in service reductions

The City Council has responded to the drastically slowed economy with the adoption of a \$72 million spending reduction program that reduces some municipal services and programs and eliminates 170 city jobs.

The reductions, which became effective March 31 and will continue through the 2003-04 fiscal year, followed a series of meetings city officials held with residents throughout the city.

The council acted on the cost-saving measures because of deep declines in state income taxes, sales taxes and other revenues. City officials have warned that further reductions will have to be made if state-shared revenues received by the city are reduced by the State Legislature.

The vast majority of services enjoyed by residents will remain intact. But, some services will be reduced.

Library branches will open later and close earlier, fewer library books and audio and visual materials will be acquired, the amount of money made available for neighborhood street repairs will be reduced and swimming pools will close in mid-August, coinciding with the start of the school year.

Also, transit customer service representatives no longer will be available on Sundays at the

downtown Central Station, implementation of bus service on 32nd Street and the extension of Route 90 on Cave Creek Road will be delayed, and DASH Sunday and holiday service in the downtown area will be eliminated.

A number of changes in the budget cuts initially proposed by the city were made as the result of recommendations by residents who attended the public meetings.

Most notable was the hiring of 71 police officers, including 39 who will be assigned to Sky Harbor International Airport to meet a federal security mandate. This brings the ratio of officers per 1,000 residents to 2.1, the highest in history.

Other police changes made as a result of the meetings were restoring the graffiti hotline, mounted patrol, special projects unit, community programs unit and youth alcohol squad.

The council also restored some funding for library materials, summer youth jobs and weekend graffiti removal, all of which were marked for elimination at the outset of the budget work.



City to auction surplus goods May 17

Surplus materials ranging from furniture to cars will be sold at an auction Saturday, May 17.

Gates to the city auction yard, 2820 S. 22nd Ave., south of Lower Buckeye Road, will open at 6:30 a.m. and the sale will begin at 8 a.m. The cashier will remain open until 1:30 p.m. and the gates will close at 3 p.m.

Inspection of the items that will be auctioned will be allowed at the yard from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, May 15, and Friday, May 16.

For more information, call 602-534-0828.

Brush, debris hazards target of city

The Fire, Public Works and Neighborhood Services departments have teamed up again on a program aimed at reducing brush and debris fires in neighborhoods.

Firefighters are surveying neighborhoods for brush and debris fire hazards and forwarding the location of possible violations to the Neighborhood Services and Public Works departments for city code compliance.

The city requires that lots, properties, alleys and easements be kept free from litter, garbage, overgrown vegetation, dead trees, brush, weeds and any other condition that presents a health, fire or safety hazard.

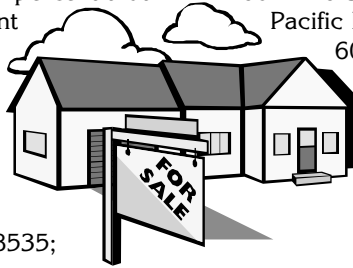
Loans for first-time homebuyers available

The Phoenix and Maricopa County Industrial Development authorities are offering \$20 million to help first-time homebuyers obtain federal loans or conventional financing to purchase a house anywhere in the county.

Qualified individuals or families would be able to obtain 30-year fixed loans at an interest rate of 5.39 percent or loans at 5.99 percent that include 4 percent down payment and closing cost assistance.

To receive a brochure about the program, call 602-256-4288 or contact one of the following lenders:

Bank One, N.A., 602-589-3715; CH Mortgage, 480-998-8535;



Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., 602-548-4106 x232; First Mortgage Corp., 480-820-2424; Great Southwest Mortgage, 480-609-3370; Irwin Mortgage Corp., 1-800-846-6291; Marina Mortgage Co., Inc., 602-870-1102; and National Bank of Arizona, 602-235-6000.

Also, National City Mortgage Co., 602-216-3700; NHS Phoenix, 602-258-1659; Pacific Republic Mortgage Corp., 602-944-9800; Principal Residential Mortgage, Inc., 480-481-9958; Suburban Mortgage Inc., 602-942-7777; Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, 480-481-8967; and Western Pacific Mortgage, 1-877-419-1950.

Phone books OK for recycling

Telephone books may be discarded in the city's blue Phoenix Recycles containers. So when your new directory arrives, be sure to recycle your old one.

For more information, call 602-262-7251 or visit phoenix.gov/GARBAGE. Information on recycling telephone books at work or school is available by calling 602-207-9900 and pressing BOOK (2665).



Job Fair hosts 55 employers

If you are looking for a job that suits your talents and skills, plan to attend the free Valley Employment Partnership Job Fair, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at Mesa Centennial Hall at Mesa Centennial Center, 201 N. Center St.

About 55 employers will be on hand seeking to fill entry- to professional-level jobs in high-tech, manufacturing, retail, health care, finance, law enforcement, and city and state government.

The fee for companies wishing to participate in the job fair is \$250, which includes a display table, employer directory listing and networking breakfast.

For more information, call 602-262-6776 or visit www.hsd.maricopa.gov/mwc/jobfairs1.htm.

Concert series set for Steele Park



Bring a blanket and a picnic basket to enjoy Steele Indian School Park's summer concert series that begins May 10 at the central city park at Third Street and Indian School Road.

Other dates in the series are June 14, July 12, Aug. 9 and Sept. 13. The free performances featuring popular local entertainers begin at 8 p.m.

For more information, call 602-495-0739.

Library hosts 'Frankenstein' exhibit

"Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature," a national traveling exhibition that encourages audiences to examine the intent of Mary Shelley's novel, "Frankenstein," will be on display at Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave., from April 30 to June 6.

For more information, call 602-534-0603 or visit www.ala.org/publicprograms/frankenstein.



Disposal facilities weekend summer hours

The weekend summer hours for the city's landfill and transfer station are 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. from May 3 through Sept. 28. Weekday hours remain unchanged: 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The transfer station is closed on Sundays. For disposal facility information call 602-262-7251.

Everyone in the water . . . city pools ready for summer

Bring on the heat. The Parks and Recreation Department is ready.

All 28 of the city pools will open for weekend swimming in May and daily swimming in June.

Regular admission to the pools continues at 50 cents for swimmers 17 and under and seniors 50 and older, and \$1.50 for adults. Coupon books and season passes that offer additional admission bargains also are available, and the Kool Kid program offers free swimming for youngsters at selected pools.

Opening day - free courtesy of Phoenix Coca Cola - is May 3 when all of the pools begin

weekend operations. Pools will be open noon to 8 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday through the month and on Memorial Day, May 26.

The city's 15 regional pools will offer daily swimming noon to 7 p.m. during the week following Memorial Day and all of the pools will begin regular noon to 8 p.m. daily swimming June 2. The season will finish and pools will close Aug. 10.

For more information call 602-534-SWIM (7946) or visit phoenix.gov/SPORTS/pools.html.

Cool off at a city pool

Pool names and locations:



Alkire - 1617 W. Papago St.
Cactus* - 3801 W. Cactus Road
Cielito - 4551 N. 35th Ave.
Coronado - 1717 N. 12th St.
Cortez - 3434 W. Dunlap Ave.
Deer Valley* - 19400 N. 19th Ave.
Eastlake* - 1548 E. Jefferson St.
El Prado* - 6428 S. 19th Ave.
Encanto* - 2125 N. 15th Ave.
Falcon - 3420 W. Roosevelt St.
Grant - 714 S. Second Ave.
Harmon* - 1239 S. Fifth Ave.
Hermoso - 5749 S. 20th St.
Holiday - 4530 N. 67th Ave.
Madison* - 1440 E. Glenrosa Ave.

Marivue* - 5625 W. Osborn Road
Maryvale - 4444 N. 51st Ave.
Mountain View - 1104 E. Grovers Ave.
Paradise Valley* - 17648 N. 40th St.
Perry - 3131 E. Windsor Ave.
Pierce* - 2150 N. 46th St.
Roadrunner* - 3502 E. Cactus Road
Roosevelt* - 6246 S. Seventh St.
Starlight* - 7810 W. Osborn Road
Sunnyslope - 301 W. Dunlap Ave.
Telephone Pioneer* -
1946 W. Morningside Drive
University - 1102 W. Van Buren St.
Washington* - 6655 N. 23rd Ave.
**regional pool*

Child safety seat help available

Need help installing a child safety seat in your car?

The Police Department provides information about car seat safety and offers assistance with installing the seats to parents, caregivers and others who transport children in their vehicles.

Just call the child safety seat hot line, 602-534-TOTS (8687).



Fiddling with our stories

Do family stories passed from generation to generation impact the way people think and communicate?

Join Dr. Richard Wentz, Arizona State University professor emeritus of religious studies, as he leads a dialogue inviting people to "fiddle" with their own stories at the Phoenix Faces of Diversity Brown Bag lunch series May 30.

The free presentation will be noon to 1 p.m. at Phoenix City Council Chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St. For more information, call 602-261-8242/voice or 602-534-1557/TTY.

BOPA events planned for May, June

Phoenix residents can dispose of household hazardous waste and other items at BOPA collections 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 8 - 10 at Los Olivos Park, 2802 E. Devonshire Ave., and 7 a.m. to noon June 12 - 14 at Hermoso Park, 2030 E. Southern Ave.

In addition to batteries, oil, paint and antifreeze, the event will accept five road tires per resident, computers and household appliances, including refrigerators, stoves, evaporative coolers, air conditioners, washers, dryers and water heaters.

Commercial loads will not be accepted.

The city also will pick up household appliances and computers at your home for a \$10 fee. Call for a collection appointment. For information, call 602-262-7251, send e-mail to pwserve@phoenix.gov or visit phoenix.gov/GARBAGE.

Fair housing month

April is Fair Housing month. The city's Equal Opportunity Department provides fair housing education services to residents and investigates housing discrimination complaints throughout the year.

It is illegal for landlords, leasing agents, property managers, real estate agents, loan providers and others who provide housing to discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or family status.

For more information, call 602-262-7486 or 602-534-1557/TTY.



City receives grant to strengthen fair housing program



The Phoenix Equal Opportunity Department has been awarded a \$90,000 federal grant to enhance its fair housing program by conducting testing for possible discrimination and training sessions for tenants and landlords.

The testing will be done by the Arizona Fair Housing Center, a non-profit fair housing advocacy organization that will conduct about 80 tests at randomly selected apartment complexes to determine possible discrimination.

It will look at the treatment of people of different races and nationalities, with disabilities, and with and without children as they try to rent an apartment. If evidence of discrimination occurs, the department will issue a formal complaint, which could lead to further testing and possible court action.

The housing center also will conduct about 35 fair housing training sessions to educate tenants of their rights and housing providers on how to avoid violations.

For more information, call 602-262-7486 or 602-534-1557/TTY.

Historic Preservation festival May 10

Catch a little bit of Phoenix history at the Historic Preservation Week festival 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 10 at Heritage Square Park, Seventh and Van Buren streets.

Festival activities will include bus tours of historic downtown and historic neighborhoods, presentations about the city's history and informational booths.

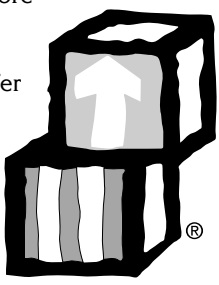
For more information, call 602-261-8699.

Head Start opens enrollment

Phoenix, Maricopa County and Southwest Human Development Head Start programs are recruiting children for the 2003-04 school year.

Families must meet federal income guidelines for family size, and children must be at least 3 years old before Sept. 1 to be eligible.

The 334 classrooms at 222 sites in the county offer individualized teaching, nutritious meals, health screenings and a safe, stimulating environment.



Some sites also provide full-day, full-year childcare services for working families. Services for pregnant women or low-income families with infants or toddlers are offered through the Early Head Start program.

For more information, call 480-464-9669 in the east Valley, 623-486-9868 in the west Valley and 602-262-4040 or 602-266-5976 in Phoenix.

notes

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For alternative format/reasonable accommodations, call 602-262-7176 or TTY 602-534-5500.



City of Phoenix